UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/23970
19 May 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I transmit herewith the text of a statement made by Mr. Saadi Mehdi Saleh, Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, to a correspondent from the British newspaper The Independent in Baghdad on 12 May 1992. The report quotes him as saying that Iraq objects to and refuses to abide by the results of the work carried out by the Commission established to demarcate the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait:

> "Iraq would not accept the new border being drawn up by the United Nations, which gives some of Iraq's territory to Kuwait." He said: "We need direct talks with Kuwait, and, if there is a third party involved, it should be the Arab League." He said Iraq was not in a position "to take strong action, but in future it (the new border) will bring problems and destabilize the region."

This statement by the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly is an elaboration of the similar positions declared by Iraqi officials, including the remarks made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to the Jordanian newspaper Al-Dustur on 27 April 1992 and quoted by Agence France-Presse that same day, as follows:

> "Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz implicitly rejected the decision adopted on 16 April by the United Nations Commission concerning demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. He said the decision was not based on any legally valid documentation. Aziz, who was speaking yesterday, Sunday, to members of the Secretariat of the Conference of Arab Popular Forces, said the West was well aware that the boundary could not be accepted and that the problem would remain in abeyance. This would give it a reason to keep its forces in the region. Aziz said Iraq had not recognized the documents used by the Commission, which included Kuwaiti, Iraqi, New Zealand and Swedish experts, because they were devoid of any historical or geographical basis."

The statements being made by senior Iraqi officials of both the legislative and executive branches concerning their positions and intentions vis-à-vis Security Council resolutions do not constitute anything new for us in Kuwait. We are well aware of the nature and positions of the Iraqi regime in Baghdad, based as they are on a long and continuous history of aggression, expansionist and terrorist policies and failure to respect the principles of international law.

These statements clearly and unequivocally demonstrate that the unconditional acceptance by Iraq's legislative and executive authorities of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) is nothing more than an attempt to deceive the international community and to delude it into thinking that Iraq respects international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions adopted in the wake of Iraq's aggression against and invasion of Kuwait. In fact, the Iraqi regime is simply trying to fulfil its objective of lifting the international sanctions imposed on it without any genuine compliance on its part with the obligations emphasized by the forces of international legitimacy and confirmed by Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 687 (1991). These obligations relate to respect for the sanctity of the international boundary between Iraq and Kuwait in accordance with the agreements concluded between the two countries, which constitute the legal basis for the work of the Commission established to demarcate the boundary between them.

The significance of these Iraqi statements lies in the fact that they reveal Iraq's future aggressive intentions towards Kuwait and the region and towards compliance with Security Council resolutions. They also entirely undermine the objectives which the United Nations is striving to attain, namely, the establishment of peace, security and stability for all nations of the region.

I should be grateful if you would inform the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter.

(Signed) Mohammed Saad AL SALLAL
Chargé d'affaires a.i.